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EXAMINER

DIXON, THOMAS A

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2161

DATE MAILED: 03/01/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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Office Action Summary

Application No.

08/977,846

Applicant(s)

RYAN, JOHN O.

Examiner

Thomas A. Dixon

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 January 2002.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-59 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 2-32 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,33-59 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____.

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DETAILED ACTION

1. The new abstract is acceptable.
2. The 112 rejection of claim 48 is withdrawn.

Response to Arguments

3. Examiner apologies for miss-citing 102(e), the reference is in fact 102(b), the rejection remains the same, as repeated below.
4. Applicant's arguments filed 11 January 2002 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

In response to applicant's argument that the references fail to show certain features of applicant's invention, it is noted that the features upon which applicant relies (i.e., local storage of received audio) are not recited in the rejected claim(s). Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993).

The claims merely recite storage of "data in the received broadcast signal", see Nagashima ('204) figure 1 (13, 14) and page 8, lines 8-15, a database, see and page 21, lines 6-17 and figure 8, a set of menus and a user interface, see figures 6 and 7, and page 8, lines 3-6, and speech subsystem for playback of the stored data, see figure 1 (16) and page 12, lines 16- page 13, line 18 and page 14, lines 9-20.

Applicant's arguments regarding Lovett ('477) and Rovira et al ('040) are to features of the independent claims allegedly not disclosed by Nagashima ('204),

disputed above, rather than to features of the dependent claims which examiner has indicated as being taught.

5. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

6. Claims 1, 33-35, 48-51, 58-59 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Nagashima (GB 2 259 204 A).

As per Claim 1.

Nagashima ('204) discloses:

a tuner for receiving a broadcast signal, see figure 1 (1, 2);
a memory coupled to the tuner for storing data in the received broadcast signal in a database, see figure 1 (13, 14) and page 8, line 8-15 and page 21, lines 6-17;
a user interface for providing a set of menus describing the database, and for accepting selections from the set of menus, see figure 7 and page 8, line 3-6;
a controller coupled to the memory and the user interface for selecting data from the database in response to the accepted selections and providing the selected data in a digital form, figure 6 (s52-s54) and page 20, line 17 – page 22, line 5;

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a speech producing sub-system coupled to the controller and the memory for converting the selected data from digital form to an analog signal, see figure 1 (16) and page 12, line 16 – page 13, line 18 and page 14, lines 9-20.

As per Claim 33.

Nagashima ('204) discloses all the limitations of claim 1.

Nagashima ('204) further discloses the memory stores the entire database, see page 4, lines 8-15.

As per Claim 34.

Nagashima ('204) discloses all the limitations of claim 1.

Nagashima ('204) further discloses the memory comprises a combination of volatile RAM and non-volatile memory, see figure 1 (13,14).

As per Claim 35.

Nagashima ('204) discloses all the limitations of claim 1.

Nagashima ('204) further discloses the non-volatile memory is a magnetic disk, see figure 1 (14).

As per Claim 48.

Nagashima ('204) discloses all the limitations of claim 1.

Nagashima ('204) further discloses the tuner channel skips to tune to a particular transmitter, see figure 3 (S21).

As per Claim 49.

Nagashima ('204) discloses all the limitations of claim 1.

Nagashima ('204) further discloses an amplifier, see figure 1 (8).

As per Claim 50.

Nagashima ('204) discloses all the limitations of claim 1.

Nagashima ('204) further discloses means for connecting the receiving system to an automobile radio set, see page 2, line 24 – page 3, line 1.

As per Claim 51.

Nagashima ('204) discloses all the limitations of claim 1.

Nagashima ('204) further discloses a hierarchy for the database, see figure 8 and 9.

As per Claim 58.

Nagashima ('204) discloses:

receiving the information, see page 18, lines 2-9;

storing the received information in a database, see column 18, lines 9-18 ;

providing a set of menus describing the database, see figure 7 and page 10, lines 12-21;

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accepting selections from the set of menus, see page 14, line 21 – page 15, line 14;
providing the selected data in digital form, see page 18, lines 9-18; and
converting the selected data to an analog signal, see page 10, lines 4-11, and
page 18, line 18 – page 19, line 1.

As per Claim 59.

Nagashima ('204) discloses all the limitations of claim 58.

Nagashima ('204) further discloses the received information is transmitted by a
broadcast signal, see page 3, line 17 – page 4, line 7.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all
obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 36-40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over
Nagashima (GB 2 259 204 A) in view of Lovett ('477) in view of Rovira (WO 92/10040).

As per Claim 36.

Nagashima ('204) discloses all the limitations of claim 35.

Nagashima ('204) does not disclose the received audio data has been converted
from analog form to digital form.

Lovett ('477) teaches that the data stored in analog or digital form, see column
11, lines 60-67 and digital/analog conversion, which is simply the reverse of digital to
analog conversion, see column 12, lines 40-45, are well known for the benefit of
conversion of data before transmission.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the
time the invention was made to convert analog data to digital form as taught by Lovett
('477) before sending to the invention of Nagashima ('204) for the benefit of conversion
of data before transmission to an audience.

Lovett does not specifically teach transmission of digital signals.

Rovira ('040) teaches transmission of digital signals see page 9, lines 4-14, for
the benefit of providing an audience of subscribers with digital content.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the
time the invention was made to modify the invention of Nagashima ('204) to store data
in either analog or digital form as taught by Lovett ('477) and convert the data as

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necessary to transmit the data as taught by Rovira ('040) in digital form to an audience of subscribers.

As per Claim 37.

Nagashima ('204) in view of Lovett ('477) further in view of Rovira ('040) discloses all the limitations of claim 36.

Nagashima ('204) does not disclose the received digital audio data is digitized and has been compressed.

Rovira ('040) teaches conversion, compression and encryption of data are well known for the benefit of increased speed and security of data transmission, see page 12, lines 5-16.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made to digitize and compress the data transmission for the benefit of increased speed of data transmission.

As per Claim 38.

Nagashima ('204) in view of Lovett ('477) further in view of Rovira ('040) discloses all the limitations of claim 36.

Nagashima ('204) does not disclose the received digital audio data is digitized and has been encrypted.

Rovira ('040) teaches conversion, compression and encryption of data are well known for the benefit of increased speed and security of data transmission, see page 12, lines 5-16.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made to digitize and encrypt the data transmission for the benefit of increased security of data transmission.

As per Claim 39.

Nagashima ('204) discloses all the limitations of claim 1.

Nagashima ('204) further discloses the data is alphanumeric data, see figures 7 and 8 and page 9, lines 1-8

Nagashima ('204) does not disclose the received data has been converted from analog to digital form.

Lovett ('477) teaches that the data stored in analog or digital form, see column 11, lines 60-67 and digital/analog conversion, which is simply the reverse of digital to analog conversion, see column 12, lines 40-45, are well known for the benefit of conversion of data before transmission.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made to convert analog data to digital form as taught by Lovett ('477) before sending to the invention of Nagashima ('204) for the benefit of conversion of data before transmission to an audience.

Lovett does not specifically teach transmission of digital signals.

Rovira ('040) teaches transmission of digital signals see page 9, lines 4-14, for the benefit of providing an audience of subscribers with digital content.

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Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made to modify the invention of Nagashima ('204) to store data in either analog or digital form as taught by Lovett ('477) and convert the data as necessary to transmit the data as taught by Rovira ('040) in digital form to an audience of subscribers.

As per Claim 40.

Nagashima ('204) in view of Lovett ('477) further in view of Rovira ('040) discloses all the limitations of claim 39.

Nagashima ('204) further discloses the data is converted to voice by a speech synthesizer, see figure 8 (TRAFFIC INFORMATION SPEECH SYNTHESIZER).

8. Claims 41,42, and 47 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nagashima (GB 2 259 204 A) in view of Rovira (WO 92/10040).

As per Claim 41.

Nagashima ('204) discloses all the limitations of claim 1.

Nagashima ('204) does not disclose a decryptor for decrypting the data.

Rovira ('040) teaches conversion, compression and encryption of data are well known for the benefit of increased speed and security of data transmission, see page 12, lines 5-16 and further a decryptor for decrypting, see page 14, lines 7-12 for the benefit of reversing the encryption, compression and conversion of the broadcast data.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made to decrypt the data transmission for the benefit of reversing the encryption, compression and conversion of the broadcast data.

As per Claim 42.

Nagashima ('204) in view of Rovira ('040) discloses all the limitations of claim 41.

Nagashima ('204) does not disclose a decompression algorithm for decompressing the data.

Rovira ('040) teaches conversion, compression and encryption of data are well known for the benefit of increased speed and security of data transmission, see page 12, lines 5-16 and further a decompression, see page 14, lines 7-12 for the benefit of reversing the encryption, compression and conversion of the broadcast data.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made to decompress the data transmission for the benefit of reversing the encryption, compression and conversion of the broadcast data.

As per Claim 47.

Nagashima ('204) discloses all the limitations of claim 1.

Nagashima ('204) does not disclose a control for determining the speed at which the speech output device outputs the analog signal.

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Rovira ('040) teaches a rate synchronizer see figure 3 (33-1, and 33-2) for the benefit of correct recreation of the digital sound sent.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made to modify the invention of Nagashima ('204) to include the rate synchronizer taught by Rovira ('040) for the benefit of correct recreation of the digital sound sent.

Allowable Subject Matter


9. Claims 43-46, 52-57 objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thomas A. Dixon whose telephone number is (703) 305-4645. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday 6:30 - 4:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Trammell can be reached on (703) 305-9768. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 746-7293 for regular communications and (703) 746-7238 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas A. Dixon". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping "T" and a cursive "Dixon".

Thomas A. Dixon
Examiner
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February 28, 2002